

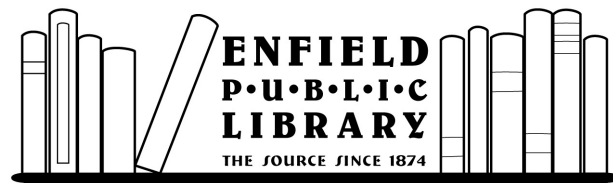
Town of Enfield

Department of Libraries

2013-2014 Budget Narrative

“In today’s world of cynicism and materialism, I don’t hear much about investment in the future or making sure children are literate and well-educated as an expression of patriotism. Our children will compete for jobs with people whose communities provided the educational support available from an adequate library.”

Ron Mitchell, “Funding the Library is also a form of patriotism,” in a letter to the editor in the Casper (Wyo.) *Star-Tribune* September 22, 2012



General Outline

It is the mission of The Enfield Public Library to provide multiple resources to meet the educational, cultural, recreational, and technological needs of the community. Through excellent customer service, we offer equitable access to all and create a friendly and safe atmosphere of learning. We are proud to serve the greater Enfield community and look forward to an exciting future fulfilling the diverse needs of our Town.

Children's Services

- Encourage and Foster Emergent Literacy**
- Support School Curriculum and Provide Information**
- Promote Summer Reading and Reading for Enjoyment**
- Create Community**

Adult and Reference Services

- Promote Basic Literacy**
- Support Life Long Learning**
- Provide Innovative Technology Services**
- Spread Cultural Awareness**
- Create Community**

Borrowers' Services

- Circulate the Library Collection and Maintain Quality Customer Service**
- Maintain the Collection**

Pearl Street Branch

- Create Community, Especially for Thompsonville Residents**
- Foster Reading at all Levels**
- Provide Equitable Access to a Wide Variety of Educational and Entertainment Materials and Programs**

E-TV Enfield Television

- Keep Citizens in Touch with Town Government**

Why Do We Do It?

Children's Services

*Investing in the library is investing
in the growth of young children*

Encourage and Foster Emergent Literacy

Rhyme Time and Story Time programs build vocabulary, phonemic awareness, and narrative skills

Early Literacy Computer Stations for ages 2-10 offer educational games across 7 curricular areas

Resources include books, puppet kits, themed backpacks with educational games, puzzles, etc.

*The value, indeed the **necessity**, of early literacy is explained at*
<http://www.reachoutandread.org/impact/importance.aspx>

Support School Curriculum and Provide Information

New nonfiction section for beginning readers will support the new Common Core Standards

Resources for book reports and research projects (print and databases) go well beyond Google

Material is purchased/displayed for middle/high school summer reading lists

Space and resources are valued by home-schooled families

Teachers' requests are available for reserve/displays/interlibrary loan to school

Third grade field trips teach library skills in the public library, reinforcing what is taught in school

See Letter 1: in appendix

Promote Summer Reading and Reading for Enjoyment

Incentive-based reading activities and fun/educational/cultural programs motivate children

Practice with reading prevents "summer learning loss"

Reading for enjoyment helps lead to academic success and lifelong learning

Studies show that low-income children are disproportionately affected by “summer learning loss,” or the idea that children lose skills during the summer and spend too much time reviewing curriculum from the previous grade level in the fall

“To the extent that low-income kids are likely to lose ground in reading proficiency, Richard Allington, who specializes in this very issue, points out that summer school (and summer homework assignments) aren’t necessary or even sensible. Rather, he and his colleagues have shown that the key is to ensure ‘easy and continuing access to self-selected books for summer reading’[4] — a solution that’s not only a lot cheaper than summer school but a lot less likely to cause kids’ interest in learning to evaporate in a sweltering classroom.”

Richard L. Allington et al., “Addressing Summer Reading Setback Among Economically Disadvantaged Elementary Students,” *Reading Psychology* 31 (2010): 423. Quoted from http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/summer-learning-loss-whats-true-and-false/2012/07/19/gJQA13B3wW_blog.html

The U.S. Department of Education found that, generally, the more students read for fun on their own time, the higher their reading scores <http://www.nea.org/grants/13662.htm>

Create Community

New parents meet.

Cultural programs and contests bring people from different walks of life together

Librarians work with Head Start teachers, Family Resource Centers, and school liaisons to address families’ social, economic and educational concerns

See letter 2: in appendix

Adult and Reference Services

*Google can bring you back 100,000 answers,
a librarian can bring you back the right one*

--Neil Gaiman

Support Life Long Learning

Patrons of all ages, with any intellectual interest, can utilize the library’s many reference resources such as online databases, the services of the Reference Librarian in answering questions and the many print materials

Through Collection Development, the librarians both purchase, and conversely weed, in particular subject areas, providing the community with a well rounded and current collection within all formats. In addition, Reader’s Advisory helps patrons identify what to read, watch or listen to next

With both *Meet the Author* programs and *Book Discussion Groups*, patrons talk about authors and books, and experience the chance to meet local authors, and nationally known authors such as Tess Gerritsen, Malachy McCourt, Gina Barreca, and many more

Monthly programs provide enlightening lectures on a wide variety of topics

Educational experiences extend well beyond the library's walls with the Museum Pass Program, exposing our patrons to educational and cultural experiences at museums throughout the region

Words on Wheels, the library's homebound delivery service, brings our collection to those who can no longer make it to the library. Reservation Please automatically puts patrons on the reserve list for the current book from a list of over thirty major authors -- without any effort beyond filling out the form

Provide Innovative Technology Services

The Reference Librarian offers Techno Topics: personalized instruction on all things technological, from online databases, to effective Web searching and the use of eReaders and Tablets

Computers are provided with high speed Internet and numerous software applications, also Wi-Fi is available for those users with their own computers

Assistance is available for the latest eReaders and Tablets. In addition, some are provided for loan to town residents. Overdrive, the library's eBook and Audio Book catalog, provides access to materials for these devices

Create Community

The library provides public space for meeting and gathering that is recognized as inviting, neutral and safe by all individuals and groups in the community

Special historical collections highlight Shaker Heritage, Enfield History, Connecticut History and Genealogy, and act as a repository for the Town's experience of community

For whatever occasion people visit the library: the Friends' Book Sale, that award-winning, controversial, or tear-jerker film, the Festival of Trees, or a weekly session with a tutor, their gathering is what helps to create a community, in the true sense of the word.

Borrowers' Services

Customer Service you can count on

Circulate the Library Collection and Maintain Quality Customer Service

Library Assistants checkout over 300,000 items a year for patrons' use in a friendly, service-oriented manner

Then they discharge those 300,000+ items as they are returned

Those two processes alone account for an average of over 170 transactions each and every hour, or about 3 a minute

The Library Assistants also place holds, attempt to retrieve overdues, package and repair AV materials, assist patrons in the location of desired materials, assist with copier and computer questions, handle overdue fines and lost material payments, sell leaf bags and act as notaries -- to name only some of the other Library Assistant duties

Maintain the Collection

Reshelve all 300,000+ returned items

Maintain the collection in proper order

Pearl Street Branch

Community and Personal Growth since 1914

Create Community, Especially for Thompsonville Residents

Comfortable, historic space serving the local community 6 days and 52 hours a week
A welcoming spot for all and a frequent meeting place for Literacy Volunteers, ESL and elementary tutors. Our children's room is also used for supervised family visitation

Directly located on the bus route

Our large Community Room – available to local non-profit groups - is used for workshops for job skills, Weight Loss groups, Girl Scouts, Woman's Club, Hockey, Soccer, Writers, CPR Instruction and more

Patron traffic up 378.7% and Circulation up 134.5% since 2000

Foster Reading at All Levels

Our children's collection focuses on Beginning Reader materials, Picture Books and nonfiction items that correlate with neighboring school homework assignments. A number of our juvenile books contain bilingual text

Our Early Literacy Station is an English/Spanish version widely used by children ages 2 - 10

Current and Classic fiction for young adults fosters continued teen reading by keeping up with the trends as well as required school titles

Adult selections range from NY Times recommendations to Urban Fiction to Gardening. We take pride in choosing our inventory based on the local demand. Our staff specializes in readers advisory

Monthly Book Discussion Group for adults to socialize and share ideas

Provide Equitable Access to a Wide Variety of Educational and Entertainment Materials and Programs

Provide next day access to all materials available at the Central Library, and from there throughout the State

Maintain public computer lab and make available a high speed Internet connection including Wi-Fi

Library sponsored Family Movies, and other programs, are held in the Community Room

The lending of Adult and Children's collections of not only books, but also DVDs and Music CDs fill a valuable need of local families

E-TV Enfield Television

Keeping Citizens in Touch with Town Government

E-TV programming provides valuable information and engenders a sense of community. With the fast paced lives of people today, E-TV provides many ways of accessing the latest Enfield Town and Board of Education information.

Why Do We Do It?

Libraries are the great equalizers. A library card is a user's VIP pass to the wealth of the world's knowledge

Outside of the home, the library is the first educational institution for the children fortunate enough to make use of it

Not all families can afford to purchase books at the local book store. Their children should not start school at a disadvantage because they have less access to books than their peers. They should not return to school each September having slid further behind in reading skills than their peers who can afford reading materials

Every family in Enfield has access to the Internet through the library. Even those with access at home benefit from remote access to high-quality articles in the library's subscription databases rather than merely what they find from a Google search

Many children will not be exposed to the Arts and the quality of cultural performances the library brings to them. We level the playing field. Enfield's own Early Education Community Plan explains "Why We Want to Invest in the Growth of Young Children."

<http://enfieldkite.org/docs/2012%20Community%20Plan.pdf>

Libraries are many things to their communities. They offer the practical information people need to improve their quality of life and to increase individual options in a complex society—information about health, education, business, child care, computers, the environment, looking for a job... and much more

Libraries also give their communities something less tangible, yet just as essential to a satisfying and productive life—nourishment for the spirit. Programs in the humanities and the arts that encourage people to think and talk about ethics and values, history, art, poetry, and other cultures are integral to the library's mission

Libraries help to illuminate the experiences, beliefs and values that unite us as human beings. They stimulate us to make connections where we noticed none before—between our ancestors and ourselves, between one culture and another, between the community and the individual.

From The Benefits of Public Programming for Participating Libraries and Audiences

<http://www.ala.org/offices/ppo/resources/benefitspublic>

"there is no other single agency...that holds within itself greater possibilities for the cultural future of the race than the public library..."

Roden, Carl. "On a Certain Reticence or Inarticulateness among Librarians", *Public Libraries* 28 (November 1923): 489-94.

Keeping materials up to date and cataloged, allowing us to lend the most items to the most people, in a timely manner is the life blood of a well-functioning library.

The branch provides equitable access to those who do not have easy access to the central library, providing them the full enrichment opportunities available from a library

Numbers and definitions don't begin to describe what's going on at all of these sites (branch libraries). Library users may rarely venture downtown to the central library. For them the neighborhood branch is their library. They know the staff and the collection. They come to read the newspaper, surf the Web, or take their children to storytime.

Hilyard, Nann Blaine, "The Heart of the Neighborhood: Branch Libraries Today", Public Libraries; July/August 2008, Vol. 47 Issue 4, P15.

Letter 1:

Our ongoing collaboration with the Enfield Public Library has benefitted the students and staff at Enrico Fermi High School immensely. These benefits include:

- Effective student and staff access to EPL resources through interlibrary loan, the courier, and the addition of EPS Library card numbers to Student ID cards
- Teen programs that offer educational and social opportunities for students
- Continued support of our collection development/refreshment through book donations
- Professional collaboration through ongoing discussions/meetings with Director
- Book purchasing in support of the Summer Reading Program
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Patricia M. Roehl
Library Media Specialist
Enrico Fermi High School

Letter 2:

To Whom It May Concern;

The Enfield Public Library resources have proven to enrich my life, my 8 years old child's life and deepen our relationship as mother and daughter.

As a professional, I have traveled extensively and lived in several states. No matter where I have lived, for no matter what length of time, visiting the local public library has always been part of my personal agenda. Enfield Public Library, by far, exceeds in resources and programming most libraries I have patron.

I have always prided myself as a life-long learner and leaned heavily on the resources of our public library system to feed this passion. By regularly patronizing the Enfield Public Library, I have been fortunate enough to pass this love of learning on to my child and grow an excitement for reading, research and creativity through many materials and programs offered at the library. Visiting the library is something we both truly enjoy.

We have stopped by just to poke around, attend a program, utilize the media, or pick up reserved materials. We routinely borrow a reusable library bag filled to the brim with loaned books, CDs, DVDs, media and magazines. And, for an entire year, visiting the library on Friday nights was our weekly ritual. We would set up camp, so to speak, between the stacks in the children's section. We would have books scattered all about, and read to each other, laugh and create some wonderful memories. To me, this experience helps me instill in my child the value of learning in an enriching, free, fun, friendly, and safe, family environment. Places such as this are dwindling and, sadly, have become a thing of the past. I don't know of another place that offers a similar experience and in this day and age that is significant.

If a decision was made to cut funding to the library it would be devastating to many families, mine included. There is no other place that offers what we have access to at the Enfield Public Library or even comes close! As parents bringing our children, we are making memories, instilling family values, fostering a love of learning ... the list goes on and on ... Whether we are utilizing the computers, reading books, participating in a program or just visiting, Enfield Public Library is a vital part of lives that could not be replaced in any other manner. We count on the Enfield Public Library as resource! I urge you to please provide full budget funding so families, such as mine, can continue to utilize all resources available in a safe and friendly environment.

Thank you
Maria Savio, Enfield Resident

Letter 3:

I am writing to say what a fantastic asset the Library is to the town of ENFIELD! My household is a 3-generation HOME, due to the economics of the times..... and every member of my house benefits from the treasures of the library. Not only do we borrow books, DVDs, and cassettes/CDs, but frequently use the computers and resource materials. Additionally, we participate in a number of the varied programs which are offered. Also, we have taken advantage of the discount museum (etc) passes. Being on the list to receive our favorite authors new writings is such a joy! None of these things would be a part of our lives if we had to purchase them outright.

And let me NOT neglect the staff----- EACH of whom deserves praise for their friendliness and helpful services! The LIBRARY has enriched our lives in a variety of ways..... and I hope to see it continue to do so!!!!!! THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!!!!!!

Sincerely, Annemarie Almeida

Letter 4:

I am retired and living on social security. I'm thankful to be able to go to the Library to check out books and tapes that would be otherwise unaffordable and am so pleased with the wonderful assistance I receive. I especially appreciate the large print section - makes reading ever so much easier for me! The reminders that a book is due are very helpful to me (in this forgetful time of life!). I have many times requested books you did not have on hand, but your staff kindly and quickly ordered them from another library.

Thank you for all you do, and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Dot Snyder